

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 33 has been amended so as to set forth with specificity the method for producing the structure shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and described on page 17 of the instant specification. It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art references taken alone or in combination teach, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the method as now set forth in independent claim 33.

Applicant by the instant amendment has canceled claims 41-44 and 47-50 thereby rendering the Examiner's drawing requirement moot. In addition, the dependency of dependent claim 46 has been amended so as to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With regard to amended independent claim 33, it is respectfully submitted that the combined teachings of the '415 patent to Sprengling in combination with the teaching of the '244 publication to Loubinoux fails to teach, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the method as claimed therein.

Sprengling and Loubinoux combined teach alternately a web-like structure is supplied unfolded in the advance direction of the fibre web and a subsequent web-like fibre structure is supplied by means of cross layers crossing obliquely or diagonally to the feed direction of the fibre web, where the first and last fibre structures which are supplied are preferably unfolded in the advance direction of the fibre web. However, Loubinoux and Sprengling each teach a plate-like material composed of only three web-like structures:

Loubinoux, [0069], Figure 3: One diagonally folded fibre-like web is arranged between two web-like structures unfolded in the advance direction of the fibre web.

Sprengling, Figure 1, parts 1 and 3 (first and last fibre structures) are supplied unfolded in the advance direction of the fibre web. Part 2 between parts 1 and 3 is also supplied unfolded in the advance direction of the fibre web.

In the present invention, at least two diagonally folded fibre structures separated by an unfolded fibre structure are arranged between a first and a last unfolded fibre structure. Such a structure having two diagonally folded fibre structures is shown in Figures 3 and 4, described in the specification on page 17.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 33 and the claims which depend therefrom patentably define over the art of record and the early issuance of a formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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